IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Group Art Unit:

RALF CHRISTOPH et al

Examiner:

Serial No.: US National Phase of

PCT/EP00/10842

Filed: concurrently herewith

For: AUTOMATIC CONTRAST FOCUSSING WITH THREE OPTICAL PATHS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following abstract: